

WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2002: MDOT FLASH FACTS

TOPIC: Work Zones I

Driver safety question:

What is the speed limit in work zones? (Most people think there's a single set speed limit in all work zones. WRONG! Depending on lane width, amount of work being done, amount of curve in road and other factors, the legal speed limit can vary.)

It's Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, so the MaineDOT wants you to know the facts about Work Zones.

- **Maine** had over 7200 Work Zone crashes, 25 fatalities and over 3400 injuries in the last 10 years.
 - In 2000 alone, Maine had 745 Work Zone crashes, 2 fatalities, and 350 injuries.
 - Orange signs, cones, and barrels alert you to work zones. When you see ORANGE along the highway, think safety and be alert.
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- ✓ Driving through a work zone requires caution, concentration and common sense.
 - ✓ Watch the road and not the work. Expect the unexpected.

Driver Safety Question:

True or False? Most crashes in work zones involve workers on the site.

False. The majority of crashes in work zones involve drivers who are paying attention to the construction and not the road.

Now that spring is here, road construction, utility and maintenance activities increase on Maine roads. These activities can be hazardous to both the driver and work zone workers.

- **Nationally**, about 800 people are killed and 40,000 injured in Work Zone crashes each year.
- ✓ Drive at the posted Work Zone speed. The penalty for speeding in a work zone is often double the usual fine.
- ✓ Watch out for workers in work zones.
- ✓ Do not change lanes or pass in work zones.
- ✓ Unexpected stops happen often in work zones. Leave plenty of room between your car and the one in front of you. Keep at least two seconds between you and the vehicle ahead.
- ✓ Slow down, pay attention and stay calm.
- ✓ Watch for Work Zone flaggers and follow their instructions.
- ✓ Obey signs and pavement markings as soon as you can-they will guide you through the work zone.
- ✓ At merges, move left or right as soon as possible. By moving over as soon as possible, you'll help smooth traffic flow through the work area.
- ✓ Pay attention to your driving task. Work Zones require your full attention.
- ✓ Watch for construction vehicles in work zones